

Gambling Control Board Meeting Minutes
October 23, 2008
45 Commerce Drive, Augusta, Maine

Meeting opened at 12:35.

Board members present: Chairman George McHale, Cushing Samp, Richard Arnold, Larry Hall and Peter Danton

Staff members present: Exec.Director Robert Welch, Auditor Scott Woods, Lt. Bowler, and Secretary Kathy Chamberlain.

Legal counsel: Lara Nomani, Ass't A.G.

Minutes from September 18, 2008 meeting

Motion to accept: Cushing Samp moved to accept the minutes

Seconded: Peter Danton

Vote: 5-0

Executive Director's Report – Robert Welch

- Renewal of Bally Technologies' Distributor License – Suitability investigation completed as well as financial review. Renewed until October 2009.
- Scientific Games – the two bills that were generated for the cost of the move to the permanent facility as well as the incremental amount have been paid.
- Bangor P.D. statistics of calls to Hollywood Slots for September totaled seven, with one theft, but no arrest.

Financial Update – Scott Woods

Scott advised there are still some discrepancies with some of the machines. He keeps track of the variances on a daily basis. The percentage to Stabilize OTB facilities will go to 1% in November 2009, instead of the 2% they have been receiving and the remaining 1% will go into General Fund. The University of Maine scholarship fund – for the first two years went to graduate medical students. That was supposed to change over to scholarships for incoming students in July 2008.

Scott will check on that with his contact person for the University.

State Police Activity Update – Lt. David Bowler

Lt. Bowler advised that 23 applications have been processed since the last Board meeting, 20 are still outstanding. Hollywood Slots' personnel have been very helpful with requests from State Police. Bangor P.D. handles immediate calls and does a great job as well. Their calls for service to Hollywood Slots are minimal. We have never seen the increased activity such as the media has suggested.

Unfinished Business

Application Rewrite – Ms. Nomani made some suggested changes and sent them to Mr. Welch and to the State police personnel. Some of the language was cleaned up which made the questions clearer to the applicants filling out the applications.

Motion: made by Cushing Samp to accept the amended civil, criminal and investigatory proceedings portion of the applications.

Seconded by Dick Arnold

Vote: 5-0.

Sub-Committee Report – Cushing Samp

Cushing advised she had nothing to report. She is still working with Lara on the fines/violations issue. If live games were ever approved, things will have to change dramatically. The Board's role will greatly expand.

New Business

Hollywood Slots requests for a Rule Change: on Sunday hours. Chapter 8, sec 2 in the Rules. Jon Johnson request the hours to be changed to the normal hours. Currently they open at noon on Sunday. 152 room hotel occupants are leaving because they don't want to have to wait around until noontime to play. He has estimated the cost of lost revenue because of this to be about a million over a year's time and lost taxes to the state. He asks the Board to approve the time change to 8:00 a.m. opening on Sundays.

Motion: made by Dick Arnold to approve the change of the hours on Sunday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 a.m.

Seconded by Peter Danton

Vote: 5-0

Now will have to go through the Rulemaking Process, with a public hearing and time for public comments. Mr. Welch will proceed with that.

NAGRA Convention:

Motion: Dick Arnold made a motion to have all board members attend the NAGRA convention which is June 2 – June 5, 2009.

Seconded by Peter Danton

Vote: 5-0.

Mr. Welch will check into the possibility, as out of state travel has been restricted by the Governor's office.

Promotional Slot Tournaments:

Mr. Welch received a memo from HS, advising they will be running some slot tournaments in the near future. This will involve setting up machines that are not hooked into the Sci Games system and will not be receiving cash, completely separated from the main floor machines. FYI to the Board.

Next meeting December 10, 2008 Meeting adjourned at 1:35 p.m.